EAST FELICIANA PARISH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

CLINTON, LOUISIANA

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED

DECEMBER 31, 2023

EAST FELICIANA PARISH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

CLINTON, LOUISIANA FINANCIAL REPORT

WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED

DECEMBER 31, 2023

WITH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULE

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MC DUFFIE K. HERROD, LTD. {PRIVATE}

(A Professional Accounting Corporation)

McDUFFIE K. HERROD

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

POST OFFICE BOX 8436

12410 WOODVILLE ST.

CLINTON, LA 70722 Telephone (225) 683-3888 Facsimile (225) 683-6733 Email mkherrod@bellsouth.net

Member:

American Institute of CPAs Society of Louisiana CPAs

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Commissioners of East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission Clinton, Louisiana

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission, State of Louisiana, a component unit of the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or
 error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include
 examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting
 estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's basic financial statements. The other supplementary information listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The schedule of compensation, benefits & other payments to agency head is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, based on our audit and other procedures performed as described above, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, We have issued a report dated June 26, 2024, on our consideration of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

McDuffie K. Herrod, Ltd.

A Professional Accounting Corporation

June 26, 2024

This section of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's annual financial report presents our discussion and analysis of the Commission's financial performance during the fiscal year ended on December 31, 2023. Please read it in conjunction with the Commission's financial statements, which follow this section.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 2023, the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission handled the following volume of activity:

- The Commission fielded 43,063 total calls, during the year.
- The Commission handled the main telephone number for the sheriff's office and handled complaints and dispatching, when needed.
- Emergency calls (911 calls) totaled 14,879 calls.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of four parts - management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, notes to financial statements, and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the Commission:

- The first two statements are government-wide financial statements that provide both long-term and short-term information about the Commission's overall financial status.
- The remaining statements are fund financial statements that focus on individual parts of the Commission government, reporting the Commission's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements.
- The governmental funds statements tell how general government services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the information in the financial statements. In addition to these required elements, we have included a section with combining statements that provide details about our non-major

governmental funds and internal service funds, each of which are added together and presented in single columns in the basic financial statements.

Government-wide Statements

The government-wide statements report information about the Commission as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of the net assets includes all of the government's assets and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two government-wide statements report the Commission's net assets and how they have changed. Net assets, the difference between the Commission's assets and liabilities, is one way to measure the Commission's financial position.

- Over time, increases or decreases in Commission's net assets are an indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating.
- To assess the overall health of the Commission one needs to consider additional financial factors such as changes in the finances of the State of Louisiana and the Parish of East Feliciana.

The government-wide financial statements of the Commission consist of:

 Governmental activities - all of the Commission's basic services are included here, such as the program, and general administration.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the Commission's most significant funds - not the Commission as a whole. Funds are accounting devices that the Commission uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending for particular purposes.

Some funds are required by State law.

The Commission fund is:

 Governmental funds - Most of the Commission's basic services are included in the governmental funds, which focus on: (1) how the other

financial assets can readily be converted to cash flow in and out, and (2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps one determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Commission's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, we are providing additional information at the bottom of the governmental funds statement, or on the subsequent page, that explains the relationship (or differences) between them.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE

Net Position. The Commission's combined net positions were as follows. (See Table A-1)

Table A-1
Commission's Net Position

	Governmental Activities			
	•	2022		2023
Current and other assets	`\$	980,022	\$	1,064,877
Capital assets		642,997		586,287
Net Pension Asset		215,239		0
Deferred Outflows	_ •	65,695		264,554
Total Assets & Deferred Outflows		1,903,953		1,915,718
		_		- .
Current Liabilities		72,908		66,499
Long Term Liabilities				
Net Pension Liability	•	0		198,609
Deferred Inflows		247,460		28,236
Total Liabilities & Deferred Inflows		320,368		293,344
Net Position				
Invested in capital assets		642,997		586,287
Assigned		·		·
Unassigned		940,588		1,036,087
Total net position	\$	1,583,585	\$	1,622,374

Governmental Activities

Table A-2 Changes in Commission's Net Position

	Governmental Activities		
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	
Revenues			
General Revenues:			
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 271,508	\$ 374,094	
Sales	3,400	2,491	
Intergovernmental	147,276	154,920	
Interest Earned	1,951	1,935	
Other	1,629	2,980	
Grants and Contributions	28,110	26,707	
Charges for Services	295,657	291,668	
Total Revenues	\$749,531	\$854,795	
Expenses			
Public Safety	\$769,986	\$816,006	
Interest Expense	0	0	
Total Expenses	\$ 769,986	\$ 816,006	
Increase (decrease) in Net Position	\$ (20,455)	\$ 38,789	

Table A-3
Net Cost of Commission's Governmental Activities

	Total	Total
	Cost	Cost
	of	of
	Services	Services
	2022	2023
Public Safety Services	<u>\$769,986</u>	\$816,006

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

At the end of 2022, the Commission had invested \$586,287 in capital assets (See Table A-4)

Table A-4 Commission's Capital Assets (net of depreciation)

	Governmental Activities		
	2022 2023		
Buildings, Equipment, and Vehicles	\$642,997	\$586,287	
Net Capital Assets	\$642,997	\$586,287	

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS

The Commission is dependent on the State of Louisiana and the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury for most of its revenues. These entities receive a substantial part of their revenues from taxes. The economy is not expected to generate any significant growth. Therefore, the Commission's future revenues are expected to be consistent with the current years. The budget for the 2024 year is approximately the same as the year 2023.

CONTACTING THE COMMISSION'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and creditors with a general overview of the Commission's finances and to demonstrate the Commission's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Mr. Ben Chasteen, Director, P.O. Box 293, Clinton, Louisiana, 70722 or 225-683-9007.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission Clinton, Louisiana Statement of Not Position

Statement A

Statement of Net Position December 31, 2023

Current Assets Cash and cash eq Interest - Bearing Prepaid expenses Inventory - Signs Accounts Receiva	Deposits	\$ 513,797 135,050 23,398 9,423 383,209 1,064,877
Non Current Assets Net Pension Asse Capital assets net		 586,287 586,287
<u>Deferred Outflows</u> Pension Related		 264,554
	Total Assets and Deferred Outflows	 1,915,718
Liabilities Accounts payable Accrued Expenses Accrued Compens Due to other gove	sated Absences	99 43,531 18,869 4,000
Long Term Liabilitie Net Pension Liabil		198,609
<u>Deferred Inflows</u> Pension Related	Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows	 28,236 293,344
Net Position Invested in capital Unassigned	assets <u>Total Net Position</u>	\$ 586,287 1,036,087 1,622,374

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission Clinton, Louisiana

Statement B

Statement of Activities
December 31, 2023

			Program Revenues		Net Revenue	s (Expenses)
Governmental Activities	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants & Contributions	Capital Grants & Contributions	Gover Activit	nmental ies
Public safety	816,006	291,668	26,707	_		(497,631)
Total Governmental Activities	816,006	291,668		-		(497,631)
		General Revenu	ies			
		Taxes - Ad '	Valorem			374,094
		Sales				2,491
			mental revenue			154,920
		Miscellaneo				1,935
		Interest ear	ned			2,980
		Total General R	evenues			536,420
		Change in Net F	Position			38,789
		Net Position, be	ginning			1,583,585
		Net Position, en	ding		\$	1,622,374

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (FFS) MAJOR FUND DESCRIPTION GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is used to account for resources traditionally associated with governments which are not required to be accounted for in another fund.

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission

Clinton, Louisiana Governmental Funds Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Statement C

<u>Assets</u>	_G	eneral Fund
Cash and cash equivalents Interest Bearing Deposits Prepaid expenses Inventory - Signs Accounts Receivable Total Assets	\$	513,797 135,050 23,398 9,423 383,209 1,064,877
Liabilities and Fund Equity		
Liabilities Accounts payable Accrued Expenses Accrued Compensated Absences Due to other governments Total Liabilities	\$	99 43,531 18,869 4,000 66,499
Fund Equity-Fund BalancesUnassigned		998,378
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	_\$_	1,064,877

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission Clinton, Louisiana

Statement D

Reconciliation of Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to Statement of Net Position For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total Fund Balances at December 31, 2023 Governmental Funds (Statement C)		\$ 998,378
Total net assets reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:		
Deferred Outflows - Pension Related		264,554
Net Pension Asset		-
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources, and, therefore are not reported in the funds. Those assets consist of:		
Vehicles, furniture and equipment Less: Accumulated depreciation as of December 31, 2023	\$ 1,309,883 (723,596)	586,287
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet:		
Net Pension Liability		(198,609)
Deferred Inflows - Grant Related Deferred Revenue Other		-
Deferred Inflows - Pension Related		 (28,236)
Net Position at December 31, 2023 (Statement A)		\$ 1,622,374

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission Clinton, Louisiana

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Statement E

Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance

Revenues Taxes - Ad Valorem Charges for Services	374,094 291,668
Expenditures Public Safety: Employee and related expenses Contracted Services Communications Center Training and Development Auto Expenses Insurance Office Expense and Supplies Repairs and Maintenance Utilities Other Expenses Capital Outlay Total Expenditures	595,096 14,245 64,798 5,404 17,512 16,537 14,342 4,637 17,974 2,764 10,222 763,531
Excess of Revenues over (Expenditures)	91,264
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	907,114
Fund Balance at End of Year	\$ 998,378

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission Clinton, Louisiana Reconciliation of Government Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance To the Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Statement F

Total Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds (Statement E)

91,264

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital expenditures are less than depreciation expense for the period.

(56,710)

Change in Pension Expense

4,235

Changes in Net Position of Governmental Activities (Statement B)

\$ 38.789

INTRODUCTION

The East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission), located in Clinton, Louisiana, was created by the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury as allowed under Louisiana R.S. 33:9101. It is governed by a board of seven commissioners that are appointed by the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury. The commissioners serve four-year terms and are not paid for their services.

The Commission was created to provide the citizens of East Feliciana Parish with enhanced aid in the event of an emergency through the use of a single, primary three-digit emergency number.

Revenue sources of the Commission include ad valorem taxes and E911 (Enhanced Universal Emergency Number Service) fees.

NOTE #1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Commission have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles accepted in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for established governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement 34, Basic Financial Statements and Management Discussion and Analysis for the State and Local Governments, issued in June 1999.

B. REPORTING ENTITY

The East Feliciana Parish Police Jury is the reporting entity for East Feliciana Parish. For financial reporting purposes, as defined in GASB Codification Section 2011, the Commission is considered a component unit of the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury because it appoints a voting majority of the Commission's governing body. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Commission and do not present information on the Police Jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit or the other governmental units that comprise its financial reporting entity.

C. FUND ACCOUNTING

The Commission uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions related to certain tax assessment functions and activities. A fund is defined as a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Government Funds

Governmental funds account for all or most of the Commission's general activities. These funds focus on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between a governmental fund's assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. In general, fund balance represents the accumulated

expendable resources which may be used to finance future period programs or operations of the commission. The following are the commission's governmental funds:

General Fund

The general fund is the principal fund of the Commission and is used to account for the operations of the Commission's office. The various fees and charges due to the Commission's office are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The amounts reflected in the General Fund in the Balance Sheet (Statement C) and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance (Statement E) are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of the Commission's operations.

The amounts reflected in the General Fund in the Balance Sheet (Statement C) and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance (Statement E) use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectable within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The commission considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Ad valorem taxes are budgeted and recorded in the year the taxes are levied and billed. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due when the tax roll is filed with the recorder of mortgages and become delinquent on January 1st of the following year. Ad valorem taxes are generally collected in November and December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year.

Other intergovernmental revenues and charges for services are recorded when the commission is entitled to the funds.

Interest income on demand deposits is recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. Purchases of various operating supplies are regarded as expenditures at the time of purchase.

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The Statement of Net Position (Statement A) and the Statement of Activities (Statement B) display information about the reporting government as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the commission. Information contained in these statements reflect the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from non-exchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements for GASB Statement No. 33, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Non-exchange Transactions.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for the Commission's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include fees and charges paid by the recipients of services offered by the Commission, and grants and contributions for services offered by the Commission. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Reconciliation

A reconciliation of the items reflected in the Government-wide Financial Statements and the Fund Financial Statements is presented in Statement D which reconciles the Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position and Statement F which reconciles the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance to the Statement of Activities.

E. BUDGETS

The Commission used the following budget practices:

- The Commission prepares a general fund budget, on the modified accrual basis of accounting, at the beginning of each year based upon expenditures and anticipated revenues for the budget year.
- 2. A summary of the proposed budget is published and the public notified that the proposed budget is available for public inspection. At the same time, a public hearing is called.
- 3. A public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for the hearing.
- 4. After the holding of the public hearing and completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is legally adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which the budget is being adopted.

- 5. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.
- 6. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts are as originally adopted or as finally amended by the Commission. Such amendments were not material in relation to the original appropriations.

F. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits and money market savings. Cash equivalents include amounts in investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the Commission may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, money market accounts or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States or under the law of the United States.

G. INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS

Under state law, the commission may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States. Investments are limited by the Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 33:2955 and the Commission's investment policy. The commission may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes and bills, government backed agency securities, or certificates and time deposits.

H. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Commission maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

Capital assets are reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared no longer needed for public purposes by the commission, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

DescriptionEstimated LivesBuildings15 - 40 yearsFurniture and fixtures5 - 7 yearsVehicles7 - 10 yearsEquipment7 - 10 years

I. COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Employees of the Commission earn annual leave at a rate of 40-160 hours each year, depending on the length of service. Unused annual leave may be carried over year to year with a cap of 240 hours and is paid upon termination of employment. At December 31, 2023, the Commission had a liability of \$18,869 for accrued leave.

J. RESTRICTED ASSETS

For government-wide statement of net position, net position is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the asset use are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; and imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The Commission had no restrictions on assets as of December 31, 2023.

K. FUND EQUITY

In the fund financial statements, the governmental fund reports reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Any designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

L. USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE # 2 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

At December 31, 2023, the Commission had cash and cash equivalents (book balance) totaling as follows:

\$ 513,797

Demand deposits

Secured by FDIC insurance and Bank Collateral

NOTE #3 INTEREST BEARING DEPOSITS

The Commission has time certificate of deposits with maturity dates greater than 90 days. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits, and the resulting bank balances, must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount of deposit with the fiscal agent bank. Deposit balances (bank balances) at December 31, 2023, are secured as follows:

Time deposit balances \$ 135,050

Federal Deposit Insurance

And Bank Collateral \$ 135,050

NOTE #4 LEVIED TAXES

The Commission levies taxes at a rate of 1 mill on all property subject to taxation within the Commission's boundaries. The purpose of this tax is to acquire, construct, improve, maintain and/or operate an enhanced 911 telephone system. This ten-year tax expires on December 31, 2027. Taxes realized during 2023 totaled \$374,094. Taxes are invoiced by the East Feliciana Parish Sheriff in November and are considered delinquent after December 31st.

NOTE # 5 CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2023 is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Building	\$ 591,474	\$ 6,402	\$ 0	\$ 597,876
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(134,208)	<u>(21,059)</u>	0	<u>(155,267)</u>
Net Building	457,266	(14,657)	0	442,609
Equipment	624,369	3,820	0	628,189
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(484,843)</u>	<u>(33,337)</u>	0	<u>(518,179)</u>
Net Equipment	139,526	(29,516)	0	110,010
Vehicles	83,818		0	83,818
	•	(40 E20)	0	•
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(37,613)	<u>(12,538)</u>		<u>(50,151)</u>
Net Vehicles	<u>46,205</u>	<u>(12,538)</u>	0	33,667
Capital Assets, net	\$ 642,997	\$ (56,710)	\$ 0	\$ 586,287

Depreciation expense for the year was \$66,932.

NOTE # 6 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER PAYABLES

The payables are as follows at December 31, 2023:

Accounts Payable	\$	99
Payroll Related Payables		62,400
Due to Other Governments		4,000
Total	<u>\$</u>	66,499

NOTE #7 PENSION PLAN

All full time employees of the Commission, regularly scheduled over 28 hours, are eligible to be members of the Parochial Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, a multiple-employer, Public Employee Retirement System, controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees. The System is composed of two distinct plans, Plan A and Plan B, with separate assets and benefit provisions. Eligible employees of the Commission are members of Plan A. Contributions of participating agencies are pooled within the system to fund accrued benefits, with contribution rates approved by the Louisiana Legislature.

All permanent employees working at least 28 hours per week who are paid wholly or in part from parish funds are eligible to participate in the System. Employees hired prior to 1/1/07 are eligible to retire with 7 years of creditable service at age 65, 10 years of creditable service at age 60, 25 years of creditable service at age 55, or 30 or more years of creditable service at any age. Employees hired 1/1/07 and later are eligible to retire with 7 years of service at age 67, 10 years of service at age 62 or with 30 years of service at age 55.

Generally, the monthly amount of the retirement allowance for any member of Plan A shall consist of an amount equal to 3% of the members' final average compensation multiplied by his years of creditable service. However, under certain conditions, as outlined in the statutes, the benefits are limited to specified amounts.

Survivor Benefits: Plan A members survivor benefits are outlined in the Statutes.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan: Act 338 of 1990 established the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for the Retirement System. DROP is an option for that member who is eligible for normal retirement. In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement, any member of Plan A who is eligible to retire may elect to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) in which they are enrolled for 3 years and defer the receipt of benefits. During participation in the plan, employer contributions are payable but employee contributions cease. The monthly retirement benefits that would be payable, had the person elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement allowance, are paid into the DROP fund.

Upon termination of employment prior to or at the end of the specified period of participation, a participant in the DROP may receive, at his option, a lump sum from the account equal to the payments into the account, a true annuity based upon his account balance in that fund, or roll over the fund to an Individual Retirement Account. Interest is accrued on the DROP benefits for the period between the end of DROP participation and the member's retirement date.

For individuals who become eligible to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan on or after January 1, 2004, all amounts which remain credited to the individual's subaccount after termination in the Plan will be placed in liquid asset money market investments at the discretion of the board of trustees. These subaccounts may be credited with interest based on money market rates of return or, at the option of the System, the funds may be credited to self-directed subaccounts. The participant in the self-directed portion of this Plan must agree that the benefits payable to the participant are not the obligations of the state or the System, and that any returns and other rights of the Plan are the sole liability and responsibility of the participant and the designated provider to which contributions have been made.

Disability Benefits: For Plan A, a member shall be eligible to retire and receive a disability benefit if he/she was hired prior to January 1, 2007, and has at least 5 years of creditable service or if hired after January 1, 2007, has 7 years of creditable service, and is not eligible for normal retirement, and has been officially certified as disabled by

the State Medical Disability Board. Upon retirement caused by disability, a member of Plan A shall be paid a disability benefit equal to the lesser of an amount equal to 3% of the member's final average compensation multiplied by his years of service, not to be less than 15, or 3% multiplied by years of service assuming continued service to age 60.

Cost of Living Increases: The Board is authorized to provide a cost of living allowance for those retirees who retired prior to July 1973. The adjustment cannot exceed 2% of the retiree's original benefit for each full calendar year since retirement and may only be granted if sufficient funds are available from investment income in excess of normal requirements. In addition, the Board may provide an additional cost of living increase to all retirees and beneficiaries who are over age 65 equal to 2% of the member's benefit paid on October 1, 1977, (or the member's retirement date, if later). Also, the Board may provide a cost of living increase up to 2.5% for retirees 62 and older. (RS 11:1937). Lastly, Act 270 of 2009 provided for further reduced actuarial payments to provide an annual 2.5% cost of living adjustment commencing at age 55.

Employer Contributions: According to state statute, contributions for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the actuarially determined contribution rate was 7.10% for member's compensation for Plan A. However, the actual rate for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022 was 11.50% for Plan A. For 2023, members were required to contribute 9.5% of their annual covered salary and the Commission was required to contribute 11.50% of annual covered payroll. The Commission contributed \$47,790 during 2023 as its share of contributions. The Commission does not guarantee the benefits granted by the retirement system. In 2023, the Commission had 8 full time qualified staff members.

Non-Employer Contributions: According to the state statute, the System also receives ¼ of 1% of ad valorem taxes collected within the respective Parishes, except for Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parishes. The System also receives revenue sharing funds each year as appropriated by the Legislature. Tax monies and revenue sharing monies are apportioned between Plan A and Plan B in proportion to the member's compensation. These additional sources of income are used as additional employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources: At December 31, 2023, the Commission reported liabilities in its financial statements of \$198,609 for its proportionate share of the net pension liabilities of PERS. The net pension liabilities are measured as of December 31, 2022 and the total pension asset used to calculate the net pension obligation was determined by separate actuarial valuations performed as of that date. The Commission's proportion of the net pension asset was based on a projection of the Commission's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At December 31, 2022, the Commission's proportional share of PERS was 0.051603%, which was an increase of 0.005909% proportion measured as of December 31, 2021.

At December 31, 2023, the Commission reported deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

<u> </u>	<u>itflows</u>	Inflows	<u>i</u>
\$	7,343	\$	0
	209,668		0
	6,338		0
	2,408	6	3,354
	38,797		0
\$	264,554	\$ 28	3,236
	<u>Ot</u> \$	209,668 6,338 2,408 38,797	\$ 7,343 \$ 209,668 6,338 2,408 6 38,797

The Commission reported \$264,554 as deferred outflow of resources related to pension contributions made subsequent to the plan's measurement period of December 31, 2022 which will be recognized as an increase in net pension liability in the Commission's fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions: A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability for Plan A as of December 31, 2023 are as follows:

Valuation Date December 31, 2022

Actuarial Cost Method Entry Age Normal

Investment Rate of Return 6.40% (Net of investment expense)

Expected Remaining Service Lives 4 years

Projected Salary Increases 4.75%

Cost of Living Adjustments The present value of future retirement

benefits is based on benefits currently paid by the system and includes previously granted cost of living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increase not yet authorized

by the Board of Trustees.

Mortality PUB-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality

Tables for employees; PUB-2010 Mortality Table for Healthy Retirees for annuitants and beneficiaries; PUB-2010 Mortality Table for General Disabled Retirees for disabled

annuitants

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.40% for Plan A. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers and non-employer contributing entities will be made at the actuarially determined contribution rates, which are calculated in accordance with relevant statutes and approved by the Board of Trustees and the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee. Based on those assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a triangulation method which integrated the CAPM pricing model (top-down), a treasury yield curve approach (bottom-up) and an equity building-block model (bottom-up). Risk return and correlations are projected on a forward looking basis in equilibrium, in which best-estimates of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These rates are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation of 2.10% and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. The resulting expected long-term rate of return is 7.70% for the year ended December

31, 2023.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the System's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

		Long-Term Expected
		Portfolio Real Rate of
Asset Class	Target Asset Allocation	Return
Fixed Income	33%	1.17%
Equity	51%	3.58%
Alternatives	14%	0.73%
Real Assets	2%	0.12%
Totals	100%	5.60%
Inflation		2.10%
Expected Arithmetic Nominal Return		7 70%

The mortality rate assumption used was set based upon an experience study performed on plan data for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017. The data was then assigned credibility weighting and combined with a standard table to produce current levels of mortality. This mortality was then projected forward to a period equivalent to the estimated duration of the System's liabilities. Annuity values calculated based on this mortality were compared to those produced by using a set back of standard tables. The result of the procedure indicated that the tables used would produce liability values approximating the appropriate generational mortality tables.

The following presents the net pension liability of the participating employers calculated using the discount rate of 6.40%, as well as what the employers' net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower 5.40% or one percentage point higher 7.40% than the current rate.

	Plan A	A Changes in Disco	ount Rate
		Current	
	1%	Discount	1%
	Decrease	Rate	Increase
	(5.40%)	(6.40%)	(7.40%)
Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 491,167	\$ 198,609	\$ (46,663)

NOTE #8 LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

There is no current pending or threatened litigation.

NOTE # 9 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through June 26 2024, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued, and it has been determined that no significant event requires disclosure.

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission Clinton, Louisiana

Budgetary Comparison Schedule General Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Final Budget	(E	Actual Budgetary Basis)	F	/ariance avorable ifavorable)
Revenue Taxes-ad valorem Charges for Services:	\$	252,232	\$	374,094	\$	121,862
E911 Fees		307,000		291,668		(15,332)
Sales		3,200		2,491		(709)
Intergovernmental revenues		142,200		154,920		12,720
Grant revenue		-		104,020		12,720
Operating contributions		30,700		26,707		(3,993)
Interest on:		00,700		20,101		(0,000)
Investments		500		1,935		1,435
Other		1,100		2,980		1,880
Total Revenues	\$	736,932	\$	854,795	\$	117,863
Expenditures Public Safety: Employee and related expenses Contracted services Communications center Training and Development Auto Expenses Insurance Office Expense and supplies Repairs and maintenance Utilities Other Capital outlay Total Expenditures	\$	539,782 14,650 57,500 3,300 15,000 22,000 15,000 4,000 15,000 9,100 35,000 730,332	\$	595,096 14,245 64,798 5,404 17,512 16,537 14,342 4,637 17,974 2,764 10,222 763,531	\$	(55,314) 405 (7,298) (2,104) (2,512) 5,463 658 (637) (2,974) 6,336 24,778 (33,199)
Excess (Deficit) of Expenditures over Revenues	_\$_	6,600	\$	91,264	_\$	84,664
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year		342,960		907,114		
Fund Balance at End of Year		349,560	<u>\$</u>	998,378		

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission Clinton, Louisiana 70722 December 31, 2023

NOTE TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE

The proposed budget for the General Fund, prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget is then legally adopted by the Commission and amended during the year, as necessary. The budget is established and controlled by the Commission at the object level of expenditure. Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be re-appropriated for the following year to be expended. All changes in the budget must be approved by the Commission.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statement include the original adopted budget amounts and the budget amendments, if applicable, for the year ended December 31, 2023.

EAST FELICIANA PARISH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER'S SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY / ASSET DECEMBER 31, 2023

				Employer's	
				Proportionate	
				Share of the Net	Plan Fiduciary
		Employer		Pension Liability	Net Position as
	Employer	Proportionate	Employer's	(Asset) as a	a Percentage of
	Proportion of	Share of the	Covered	Percentage of its	the Total
Actuarial Valuation	the Net Pension	Net Pension	Employee	Covered Employee	Pension
Date	Liability (Asset)	Liability (Asset)	Payroll	Payroll	Liability
December 31, 2015	0.039333%	10,754	141,758	7.59%	99.15%
December 31, 2016	0.039205%	103,198	224,786	45.91%	92.23%
December 31, 2017	0.039258%	80,852	280,795	28.79%	94.15%
December 31, 2018	0.043838%	(32,539)	294,935	11.03%	98.06%
December 31, 2019	0.043838%	199,784	298,053	67.03%	88.86%
December 31, 2020	0.045013%	2,215	282,650	0.70%	99.80%
December 31, 2021	0.040206%	(70,498)	306,581	23.00%	104.00%
December 31, 2022	0.045694%	(215,239)	344,312	63.00%	110.46%
December 31, 2023	0.051603%	198,609	416,126	47.72%	91.74%

EAST FELICIANA PARISH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS DECEMBER 31, 2023

Actuarial Valuation Date	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to Contractual Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Employer's Covered Employee Payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll
December 31, 2015	23,702	23,702	_	141,758	16.72%
December 31, 2016	32,594	32,594	-	224,786	14.50%
December 31, 2017	33,729	33,729	-	280,795	12.01%
December 31, 2018	33,768	33,768	-	294,935	11.45%
December 31, 2019	31,823	31,826	-	298,053	10.68%
December 31, 2020	32,077	32,077	-	282,650	11.30%
December 31, 2021	32,910	32,910	-	306,581	10.73%
December 31, 2022	37,556	37,556	-	344,312	10.91%
December 31, 2023	40,258	40,258	-	416,126	9.67%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

EAST FELICIANA PARISH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Clinton, Louisiana
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and
Other Payments to Agency Head
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

In accordance with Act 462 of 2015, which amends Act 706 of the 2014 Legislative Session, the following Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head is presented.

BENJAMIN R. CHASTEEN, DIRECTOR

PURPOSE	AM	OUNT
Salary & Benefits:		
Salary	\$	61,009
Benefits - Insurance		28,759
Benefits - Retirement		7,016
Total Salary & Benefits	\$	96,784
Other Items:		
Education & Training		2,023
Telephone		2,160
Dues		147
Total Other Items	\$	4,330
Total Salary, Benefits, & Other Items	<u>\$</u>	101,114

MC DUFFIE K. HERROD, LTD. {PRIVATE}

(A Professional Accounting Corporation)

McDUFFIE K. HERROD

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Member:

American Institute of CPAs Society of Louisiana CPAs POST OFFICE BOX 8436 12410 WOODVILLE ST. CLINTON, LA 70722 Telephone (225) 683-3888 Facsimile (225) 683-6733 Email mkherrod@bellsouth.net

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON
INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of Commissioners of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission P. O. Box 293 Clinton, Louisiana 70722

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund East Feliciana Parish Communications Commission, a component unit of the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the East Feliciana Parish Communications Commission's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 26, 2024.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the East Feliciana Parish Communications Commission's, State of Louisiana's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the basic financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the East Feliciana Parish Communications Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the East Feliciana Parish Communications Commission's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the East Feliciana Parish Communications Commission's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Governmental Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the East Feliciana Parish Communications Commission's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the East Feliciana Parish Communications Commission's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

McDuffie K. Herrod, Ltd

A Professional Accounting Corporation

June 26, 2024

EAST FELICIANA PARISH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CLINTON, LOUISIANA SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

A. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS:

- 1. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the basic financial statements of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission.
- 2. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission were disclosed during the audit.
- 3. No significant deficiencies relating to the financial statements are reported in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control.
- B. PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT

There were no prior year findings to report.

C. PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS - INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

There are no prior year findings to report.

D. <u>CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT</u>

There are no current year findings to report.

E. <u>CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS - INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING</u>

There are no current year findings to report.

F. MANAGEMENT LETTER ITEMS

A management letter was not issued.

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Governing Board of East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period **January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023**. **East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission's** management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
 - i. **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget. No exceptions were noted.
 - ii. **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the

Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.

No exceptions were noted.

iii. *Disbursements*, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

No exceptions were noted.

iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

No exceptions were noted.

v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.

No exceptions were noted.

vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.

No exceptions were noted.

vii. *Travel and Expense Reimbursement*, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.

No exceptions were noted.

viii. Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable), including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).

No exceptions were noted.

ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.

No exceptions were noted.

x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.

No exceptions noted.

xi. Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

No exceptions were noted.

xii. **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

No exceptions were noted.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and
 - Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.

No exceptions were noted.

ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.

Not applicable

iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

Not applicable

iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

No exceptions were noted.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
 - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);

No exceptions were noted.

ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and

No exceptions were noted.

iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

No exceptions were noted.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that
 - Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
 No exceptions were noted.
 - Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;

No exceptions were noted.

iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and

No exceptions were noted.

iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

No exceptions were noted.

C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.

No exceptions were noted.

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc. Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
 - i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

No exceptions were noted.

ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.

No exceptions were noted.

iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.

No exceptions were noted.

iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).

No exceptions were noted.

v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

No exceptions were noted.

5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

No exceptions were noted.

- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that
 - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;

No exceptions were noted.

ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;

No exceptions were noted.

iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;

No exceptions were noted.

iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and

No exceptions were noted.

v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

No exceptions were noted.

[Note: Findings related to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality) should not be reported.]

- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and
 - i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation

indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and

No exceptions were noted.

ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.

No exceptions were noted.

D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

No exceptions were noted.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)

A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

No exceptions were noted.

- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and
 - i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and

No exceptions were noted.

ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

Not applicable.

C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

No exceptions were noted.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected

Not applicable. Entity had no travel or travel related expenses for the fiscal year.

i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov);

Not applicable

ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;

Not applicable

iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and

Not applicable

iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Not applicable

8) Contracts

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. Alternatively, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and
 - i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;

Not applicable

ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);

Not applicable

iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and

Not applicable

iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Not applicable

9) Payroll and Personnel

A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

No exceptions were noted.

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
 - i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);

No exceptions were noted.

ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;

Not exceptions were noted.

iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and

No exceptions were noted.

iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

No exceptions were noted.

C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

No exceptions were noted.

D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

No exceptions were noted.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
 - Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and

One of the five did not complete the training.

ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

Not exceptions were noted.

23. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

No exceptions were noted.

11) Debt Service

A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt

instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.

Not applicable

B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Not applicable

12) Fraud Notice

A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

According to management, there have no instances of misappropriation of public funds or assets.

B. Observe that the entity has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

The required notice is posted on the Entity's premises, however, not on the website.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures, verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."
 - i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup

restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:
 - Hired before June 9, 2020 completed the training; and
 - Hired on or after June 9, 2020 completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.

The commission could not provide documentation for one of the five employees; the others were verified by certificates.

B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

The Entity does not have the policy on its website, but does have it posted on the premises.

- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
 - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;

No exceptions were noted.

ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;

No complaints were received.

iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;

None - n/a

iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and

None - n/a

v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

None - n/a

Management's Response

Management of the East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission concurs with the exceptions noted and are working to address the deficiencies identified.

We were engaged by East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of **East Feliciana Parish Emergency Communications Commission** and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

McDuffie K. Herrod, LTD.

Clinton, Louisiana

June 26, 2024